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AUTHOR Harper, Jane
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ABSTRACT

Even during the 1970's when diminished national interest in foreign language study was reflected in declining enrollments at most colleges, Tarrant County Junior College (TCJC) was able to maintain a vigorous language program by emphasizing oral communication and developing a flexible curriculum. Since 1975, the college has offered its preparatory Languages for Children program for children between the ages of 4 and 12. In addition, TCJC has extensive offerings in language and culture studies through the College for Kids program on the college campus and offers after-school classes in French, German, and Spanish in several local elementary schools. Since 1982, TCJC has also offered special courses and workshops for foreign language teachers from the public and private schools of Texas. The workshops, which focus on language development, instructional methodology, and materials design and development, have been attended by more than 400 teachers. By enhancing the teachers' language and instructional skills, the workshops seek to improve the teaching and learning environment in foreign languages throughout the state and attract more students to long-term language study. Appendixes list the grants received by TCJC's Department of Foreign Languages, provide enrollment data by campus and language, list TCJC's credit and non-credit course offerings, and offer additional information on the Languages for Children program. (JMC)

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FOREIGN LANGUAGES

AT

TARRANT COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE

**Presented to
The Board of Trustees
Tarrant County Junior College District
14 September 1989**

**Jane Harper, Ph.D., Chair
Humanities Division
Northeast Campus**

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FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT TCJC

Address to the TCJC Board of Trustees

14 September 1989

I am honored by the invitation to speak to the members of the Board this evening. I am especially pleased to talk about the program of foreign languages, having chaired that department and taught French on Northeast Campus for eighteen years before moving to the Division chair of Humanities three years ago.

This is an exciting time in foreign language education in the United States. Not since Sputnik created a flurry of activity in math, science, and foreign languages in the 60's have we seen as much enthusiasm and support for foreign language education as we are witnessing today. While the motivation in the 60's was competition in space and technology, the current motivating force is competition in information, finance and trade. Americans are realizing the impact of the long-term balance of trade problem and the fact that this deficit will not be resolved without improved communication with our trading partners and competitors. As monolinguals, Americans are at a decided disadvantage in the international marketplace where the study of English is expected of students of business, marketing, and finance in foreign countries.

The need for language proficiency has been brought to the attention of the public in a variety of ways lately, from the recommendation of President A. Kenneth Pye of SMU for a language requirement for graduation for all students to the July meeting in Washington of the National

Governors Association which spotlighted international trade and education. On September 27 and 28, for the third time in history, the governors will meet at the invitation of the President of the United States. President Bush has invited the governors to Charlottesville, Virginia, to talk about education in the schools. We expect discussion on math, science, languages, and international trade.

Language instruction has changed dramatically during the last several years. No longer is the acceptable classroom experience one of giving rules and exceptions, conjugating irregular verbs in all fourteen tenses, or translating awkward, complicated sentences rarely needed and never required to make oneself understood. Rather, languages are taught through a Natural Approach which mimics the manner in which the mother tongue is developed by children. Generally, the instructor provides much "teacher talk", what we describe as "comprehensible input", talking about the day's topic and providing meaning with a wide range of visual materials. Acknowledging that there is a "speaking readiness" similar to the well-recognized reading readiness, the instructor provides a steady flow of opportunities for the students to show comprehension of the spoken language before actually being required to make extended oral responses. The result is enhanced language acquisition and longer retention. With the classroom emphasis on oral communication, first through listening and later with speaking, students learn to function in common, typical situations for everyday life in a second language, a much more practical and attractive curriculum than that offered twenty years ago.

During the general diminished national interest in foreign language study and the decline of enrollments during the 70's, TCJC language programs developed a renewed vigor and appeal to students through an early emphasis on oral communication and the development of a flexible curriculum. We added elective one-hour courses in areas of special interest to students, such as listening comprehension, conversation, and cultural topics in history, travel, art, and music, providing bases for the development of cultural understanding. During the era of national decline in language study, our enrollments held steady and continued to grow. TCJC emerged as a recognized national leader in foreign language education, receiving such recognition as inclusion in 1980 in Fifty Exemplary International Programs, a book and project on Education and the World View directed by the Council on Learning and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and in the 1981 Directory of Teaching Innovations in Foreign Languages, directed by Studies in Higher Education and funded by the Exxon Education Foundation.

In 1975 the foreign language program began its preparatory program in Languages for Children of ages 4 through 12, or kindergarten through sixth grade. These classes are taught on campus in the after-school hours during the fall and spring, offering twelve hours of instruction per semester, one meeting per week, and two days per week during each of the two six-week terms during the summer. In addition, there are extensive offerings each year in College for Kids in both language and culture. Three years ago we developed a collaborative effort with Arlington Independent School District to take foreign

language classes to the Arlington schools. French, German, and Spanish classes are taught on the premises after school in multiple Arlington elementary schools each semester. TCJC provides the faculty, curriculum, instructional materials, and equipment. Arlington ISD provides the facilities, an administrator on duty, and the registration location. Tuesday night we enrolled 290 children for classes in three Arlington schools this semester.

Since 1982 TCJC has offered special courses for foreign language teachers. This part of the program began as conversation classes meeting once a week to provide an opportunity for local secondary school teachers to speak the language that they teach at a level higher than the novice level of their students.

In 1984 we expanded the program to include a summer workshop in methodology. Just as the federal government supported language study through the National Defense Education Act in the 60's, in the 80's government support came in the form of the Education for Economic Security Act. During the last three years, we have received four of these federal grants ranging in size from \$20,000 to \$40,000 to offer major foreign language institutes for elementary and secondary teachers from the public and private schools of Texas. The cooperating local

education agencies for these projects were Fort Worth ISD, Birdville ISD, Hurst-Euless-Bedford ISD, Arlington ISD, and the Gifted Students Institute headquartered in Fort Worth. These are tri-focus workshops, emphasizing language development, current methodology, and materials design and development. More than 400 teachers have attended these summer workshops, sixty percent of them from the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, the other forty percent from around the state. These 400 teachers reach more than 50,000 students in their classes per year. We believe that their enhanced language and instructional skills will improve the teaching/learning environment in foreign languages throughout Texas, attracting more students to language study and retaining them for longer periods of time, developing a cadre of Texans with usable language skills. We hope to find a new source of grant funds to support the continuation of this valuable program.

The current enrollments in French, German, Spanish, and English for Speakers of Other Languages indicate the continuing strength of the major Western languages in the program. Thus far, our offerings in non-Western languages have been limited to non-credit Continuing Education courses, primarily in Japanese and Chinese.

The TCJC faculty provides leadership locally, statewide, regionally and nationally through their work in professional organizations, on advisory and governing boards of foreign language organizations, as speakers at conferences, and as consultants at workshops for teachers. This year Dr. Juan Franco has been nominated for national president-elect of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese; Madeleine Lively has just completed a year as the president of the Lone Star Chapter of that organization; I am serving on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Conference of Language Teachers and as Vice-President of the Texas Foreign Language Association; and Madeleine and I are both on the Advisory Councils of SWCOLT and of the Central States Conference on Language Teaching.

Tarrant County Junior College has a strong, positive reputation as a leader in foreign language education in the United States. It is always a pleasure to represent this program at professional meetings, and it has been an honor to review it for you tonight.

**Tarrant County Junior College Northeast Campus
Department of Foreign Languages**

**Grants from the Education for Economic Security Act
1987 - 1989**

- 1987 - Language Development Workshop and Internship**
Federal grant total - \$23,154
Cooperating Local Education Agency: Gifted Students Institute,
Fort Worth
Five-week program to develop teachers of French, German, and
Spanish for elementary school instruction
Visiting Consultants:
Dr. Margaret Woodruff, University of Texas at Austin
Dr. David Stout, Austin College
Dr. Maurice Elton, Southern Methodist University
Ms. Pam Kaatz, Birdville ISD
Ms. Carol Stacy, Carrollton/Farmers Branch ISD
- 1987 - Languages for Communication Workshops**
Federal grant total - \$20,067
Cooperating Local Education Agency: Fort Worth ISD
Four-week program in methodology and materials for secondary
teachers of French, German, and Spanish
Visiting Consultants:
Dr. James Hendrickson, Lansing Community College, Michigan
Dr. Marian Webb, Houston Baptist University
Dr. Joan Manley, University of Texas at El Paso
Ms. Pam Kaatz, Birdville ISD
- 1988 - Languages for Communication Workshops**
Federal grant total - \$33,398
Cooperating Local Education Agencies: Fort Worth ISD and
Birdville ISD
Four-week program in language development, methodology, and
materials for secondary teachers of French, German, and
Spanish
Visiting Consultants:
Dr. Robert DiDonato, Miami University, Cincinnati, Ohio
Dr. Lana Rings, University of Texas at Arlington
Ms. Carol Stacy, Carrollton/Farmers Branch ISD
- 1989 - Strategies for Proficiency in Second Language Acquisition**
Federal grant total - \$37,863
Cooperating Local Education Agencies: Fort Worth ISD and
Birdville ISD
Four-week program in language development, methodology, and
materials for secondary teachers of French, German, Spanish,
and Latin
Visiting Consultants:
Dr. Miriam Met, Montgomery County Schools, Maryland
Dr. Robert Terry, University of Richmond, Virginia
Dr. June Phillips, Tennessee Foreign Language Institute

Enrollment Data
Credit Program
Department of Foreign Languages
Tarrant County Junior College District
Fall Semester, 1989-90

	Northeast	South	Northwest	District
French	313	98	35	446
German	125	--	--	125
Spanish	842	444	151	1437
ESL	213	--	--	213
Total	1493	542	186	2221

An Outline of the Curriculum
Credit Courses
Department of Foreign Languages
Tarrant County Junior College

French, German, Spanish

- "Core" Courses in Sequence

Elementary I and Elementary II (4 semester hours each)
Intermediate I and Intermediate II (3 semester hours each)

- Elective One-Semester-Hour Courses

Culture Topics, such as history, travel, art, and music
Grammar Review
Listening Comprehension
Conversation
Reading

English for Speakers of Other Languages

- Oral Communication (3 levels, each 3 semester hours)
- Reading and Vocabulary (3 levels, each 3 semester hours)
- Grammar and Composition (3 levels, each 3 semester hours)

Community Service Programs
Department of Foreign Languages
Tarrant County Junior College

On-Campus Course Offerings, 1989-90

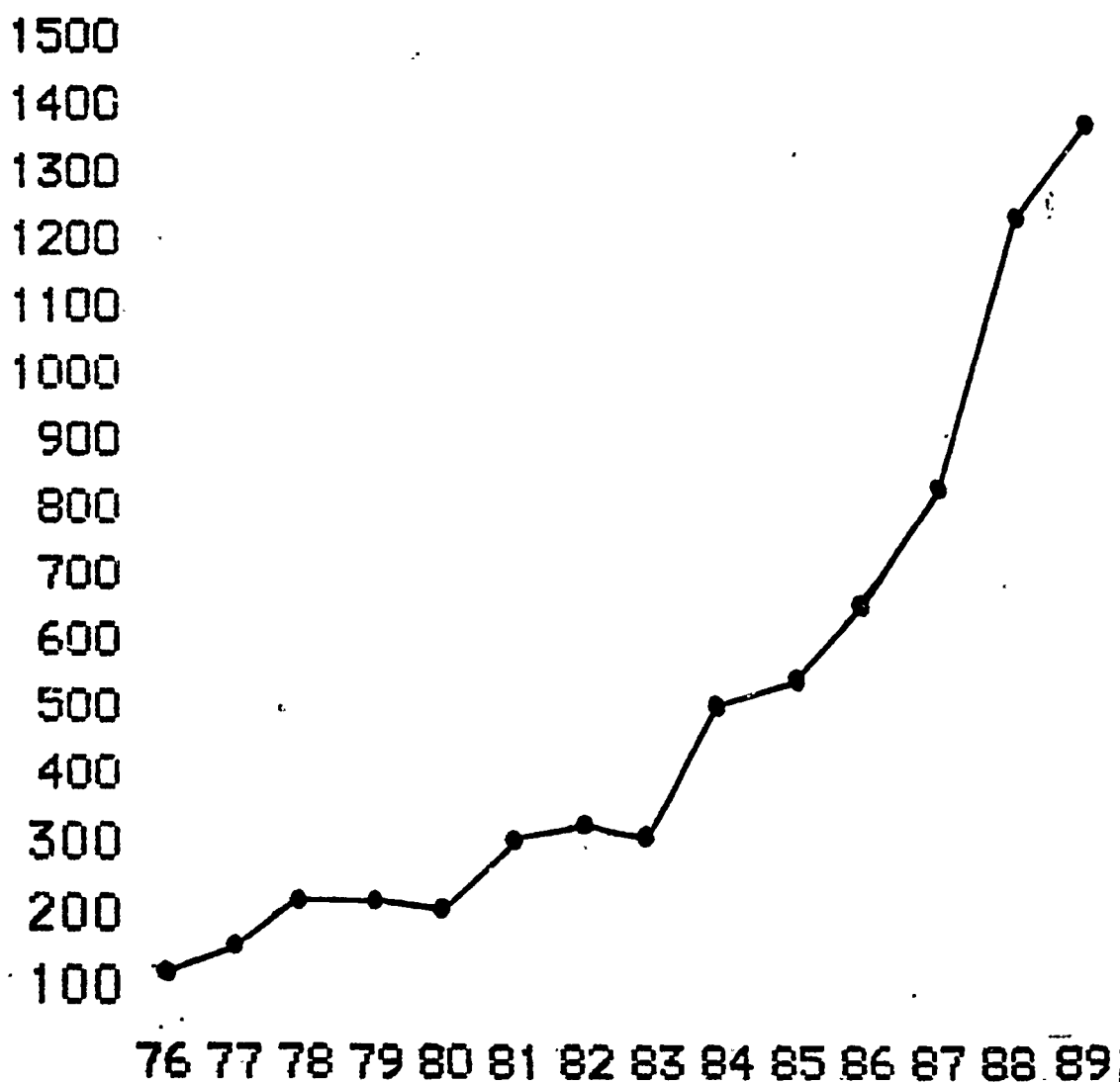
- Program of Languages for Children, Grades K - 6
 - French
 - German
 - Spanish
- Conversational Language, General Adult Population
 - French
 - German
 - Spanish
 - Japanese
 - Chinese
- Conversation Courses for Teachers of Foreign Languages
 - French
 - Spanish
- Culture Courses, General Adult Population
 - Paris for Travelers
 - Films in French
 - Films in Spanish
 - History of the Weimar Republic
- Courses in English for Speakers of Other Languages
 - Oral Communication I, II, III, IV
 - Reading and Vocabulary I, II, III, IV
 - Grammar and Composition I, II, III, IV

Off-Campus Courses

- Languages for Children, Arlington
 - French
 - German
 - Spanish
 - Chinese (to be offered Spring, 1990)
- Special Service Courses, Spanish
 - City of Fort Worth Office of Training
 - City Center Security (Bass Brothers)
- Special Service Courses, English for Speakers of Other Languages
 - Composite Technologies
 - Armiger
 - Design Foods

Languages for Children TCJC-NE Campus

General Profile of Enrollment Development
(Approximate Annual Enrollment)





"Quality In Action"

September 1, 1989

Dear Parents,

Attached you will find information regarding a foreign language program sponsored by Tarrant County Junior College Northeast Campus and Arlington Independent School District.

We are pleased to bring this program opportunity to Arlington, and we encourage you to consider enrolling your child/children. The site of the program will be Blanton Elementary School. The dates will be September 20 - December 6, 1989. The classes will meet one day a week for twelve weeks. Each class will be 50 minutes.

Registration for the Foreign Languages for Children Program is Tuesday, September 12, 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. at Arlington High School cafeteria. Staff members from TCJC will conduct the registration. We will be able to accommodate the first 200 students who register.

For further information, contact Madeleine Lively, TCJC Foreign Language Chairman, at 281-7860, ext. 662.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bower, Ed. D.
Executive Director
Elementary Instruction

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TARRANT COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT



NORTHEAST CAMPUS 828 HARWOOD ROAD • HURST, TEXAS 76054 • TELEPHONE 817-281-7880

September 8, 1989

Dear Parent:

The Department of Foreign Languages, in conjunction with the Office of Community Services, Tarrant County Junior College Northeast Campus and the Arlington Independent School District, is again offering its program of Foreign Languages for Children during the fall semester, 1989. This is an opportunity for your child to begin (or continue) language study in a pleasant, relaxed environment under the guidance of experienced, fluent teachers. The fall classes will run September 18 through December 5, 1989. Tuition is \$40 a child.

You have a choice of four locations for classes: at TCJC NE campus and in Arlington at Miller Elementary (southwest), at Blanton Elementary (east), and at Butler Elementary (north). Hopefully the variety of locations and schedules will prove convenient to parents from all over Arlington.

Registration in Arlington will take place at the Arlington High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, September 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration for classes on the Northeast Campus will take place in the Office of Non-Credit Registration anytime between now and September 15. Each class runs for 50 minutes.

The schedule of classes is:

BUTLER				BLANTON				MILLER			
	Grade		Day		Grade		Day		Grade		Day
French	K-3	3:05-3:55	T	French	K-3	3:05-3:55	W	French	K-3	3:05-3:55	M
French	4-6	4:00-4:50	T	French	4-6	4:00-4:50	W	French	4-6	4:00-4:50	M
German	K-3	3:05-3:55	M	Spanish	K-3	3:05-3:55	W	German	K-3	3:05-3:55	T
German	4-6	4:00-4:50	M	Spanish	4-6	4:00-4:50	W	German	4-6	4:00-4:50	T
Spanish	K-3	3:05-3:55	M					Spanish	K-3	3:05-3:55	M
Spanish	K-3	3:05-3:55	T					Spanish	K-3	3:05-3:55	T
Spanish	4-6	4:00-4:50	M					Spanish	4-6	4:00-4:50	M
Spanish	4-6	4:00-4:50	T					Spanish	4-6	4:00-4:50	T

Emphasis in all classes will be given to listening comprehension. Delayed oral production will allow for individual speaking readiness. The development of higher order thinking skills in the target language will be a primary focus. Class activities will involve dramatizations, stories, games, and songs in vocabulary areas such as family, sports, school activities, professions, and other familiar topics. Mediated instructional materials, such as slides, tapes, magnetic boards, and toys will be used. Topics will vary each semester, providing variety and challenge for children already in the program while allowing new children to join.

If you have additional questions, please call 281-7860, ext. 406. We welcome the opportunity to enrich your child's world by offering him the foreign language of his choice.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Lively

Madeleine Lively, Chair
Department of Foreign Languages



TARRANT COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT



NORTHEAST CAMPUS 222 HAYWOOD ROAD • MURFET, TEXAS 76064 • TELEPHONE 281-7860

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French	K-3	4:10-5:00	T
French	K-3	3:30-4:20	M
French	4-6	4:30-5:20	M
German	K-3	3:30-4:20	TH
German	K-3	4:10-5:00	W
German	4-6	4:30-5:20	TH
Spanish	K-3	4:10-5:00	M
Spanish	K-3	3:30-4:20	T
Spanish	K-3	4:10-5:00	W
Spanish	K-3	3:30-4:20	TH
Spanish	4-6	4:30-5:20	T
Spanish	4-6	4:30-5:20	TH

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Madeline Lively

Madeline Lively, Chair
Department of Foreign Languages

ERIC Clearinghouse for
Junior Colleges SEP 29 1989